



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

JULY EDITION

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City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Latasha Gatling

(At Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

AT Large Council member

Kelly Porter

Acting City Administrator/ Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

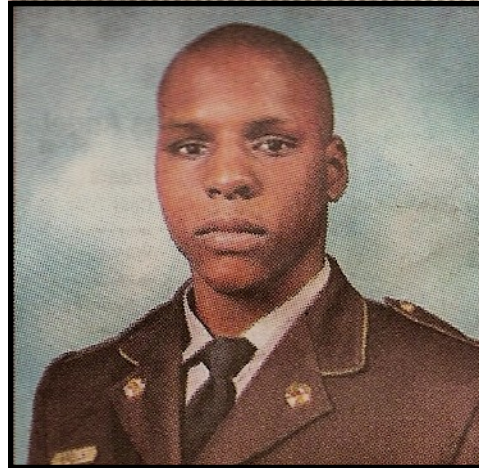
Samuel Prue

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham



IN MEMORIAM

MARYLAND STATE TROOPER

1ST CLASS

WESLEY BROWN

3/23/86 - 6/11/10

Wesley Brown was a bright young man with a promising future. He was a bright light in the Seat Pleasant community and beyond. He had a big heart and sacrificed his time and money to help others. In 2007, he started a mentoring program called "Young Men

Enlightening Young Men" to deter young men from a life of crime and drugs. Unfortunately, for us all, his life was cut short last month when he was shot and killed while working part time at an Applebee's in Forestville, Maryland. He has left a void that is all but impossible to fill but many have vowed to keep his dream alive and continue the work he began. The organization has a website, <http://ymeym.org/> and a scholarship fund has been established for members of the program to help pay for their education. Please consider making a donation to keep Wesley Brown's dream and legacy alive. Donations can be made at any Bank of America or online at:

<http://www.wbrownscholarshipfund.org>

SENIOR TEA WITH MAYOR GRANT



On June 17, 2010 twenty-five Seat Pleasant seniors enjoyed tea with Mayor Eugene W. Grant at the Largo-Kettering Library. This is an annual event that is very special to Mayor Grant in that it is one of fellowship for the community seniors. It is very important to him to reach out to seniors in Seat Pleasant. They make up a

significant part of the population (12.7%) and have contributed much to the history of the City. Many have lived in Seat Pleasant for over 30 years. Many shared their experiences throughout the afternoon.

The tea was set in a Moroccan theme with unique center pieces comprised of Moroccan lamps surrounded by grapes and pistachio nuts. A variety of teas along with finger foods were served by the attentive staff of the Teastro Catering Company. The dessert consisted of a

(continued on the next page)



SENIOR TEA *continued*

flowing Belgian chocolate fountain surrounded by strawberries and gourmet cookies. A group picture and individual pictures with Mayor Grant were taken. Mayor Grant presented each senior with a rose and a note of thanks.

GREETINGS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Happy Summer!

I hope that all is well! As you know, we are officially in the summer months. We have been experiencing record-breaking heat thus far. So, please stay cool! Please remember to contact City Hall if you know of an area within the City that has an over bearing population of mosquitoes so that we can have the area sprayed.

Great news...The City of Seat Pleasant website is live! Log on and visit the city website at www.seatpleasantmd.gov. The new website is very informative and can answer many of the questions that you may have regarding city, county, state, and federal services. The website will serve as an informational portal so please check the site as often as possible for updates, events, legislation, etc.

This year the City Council will be sponsoring a few events in Goodwin Park, please be on the lookout for park events and dates. The first event, "Cookout with the Council" will be held on Sunday, July 25, 2010 at 3:00 pm. We look forward to having you as our guest. So, be sure to come out for fun and fellowship with your elected officials and your neighbors.

Remember to be safe and watch out for children as school is out for summer break. We look forward to seeing each of you at our Public Meeting held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at City Hall. Again, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at 301-336-2600.

Sincerely,

LaTasha C. Gatling
Council President
City of Seat Pleasant
"A City of Excellence"

COUNCIL LEGISLATION

The City Council has passed the following legislation during the month of June

Ordinance O-10-09 FY2009 - 2010 Budget Extension

Ordinance O-10-10 Adopt Fiscal Year 2010 - 2011 Budget

Ordinance O-10-11 Chronic Nuisance Properties

Copies of the legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk

WARD I MEETING/ICE CREAM SOCIAL**SATURAY, JULY 31, 2010****WITH COUNCIL MEMBER****ELENORA SIMMS****IN THE****CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS****6301 ADDISON ROAD****SEAT PLEASANT, MARYLAND****1:00 - 3:00 P.M.****COME AND BE INFORMED!**



THE STATE OF MARYLAND'S HOMEOWNER'S TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

The Homeowners' Tax Credit Program provides credits against State and local real property for homeowners who qualify based on a sliding scale of property tax liability and income. The Homeowner's Tax Credit Program is a State funded program, where the State reimburses local governments for the cost of the tax credit against local property. This program initiated in 1975, was originally limited to homeowner's age 60 and older and homeowners with disabilities. However, this program was expanded to homeowners of all ages in 1978. The last change to the tax credit program occurred in 2004. This legislative initiative changed the Property Tax Credit to bring it in line with inflationary increases in property values since 1998. It is worth pointing out that according to Maryland State Department of Taxation and Assessment currently only 165 residents participate in this program. An additional 70 Seat Pleasant residents are eligible for the Homeowners' Property Tax Credit at a net savings of \$610 per resident. The State of Maryland's Property Tax Credit Program is 100% supported by State of Maryland. The deadline for submitting the Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Application is September 1, 2010. The Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Eligibility application can be completed one of three ways listed below:

- By Mailing the application to the address below
- By Using the online Homeowner's Property Tax Credit Application (Application online is due September 1, 2010).
- By Printing and mailing the pdf application on the State Department of Assessment and Taxation web site <http://www.dat.state.md.us>

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation mailing address is:

**Department of Assessment and Taxation
Homeowners' Tax Credit Program
301 West Preston Street
Baltimore Maryland 21201**

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation web site is: <http://www.dat.state.md.us>

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation phone number is: 410-767-4433.

If you have any questions please contact Robert L. Ashton, City Treasurer 301/336-2600 extension 2236.

A WORD FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

“DON'T BE A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT”

(Due to an spike in identity theft in the area, it was requested that this article be run again)



Over the past ten years, identity theft has become one of the fastest growing crimes. From the loss of monies in bank accounts, to the unauthorized purchases on credit cards, to the troublesome impact on a victim's credit history, identity theft can have a devastating, and often times lasting effect on victims. However, there are steps that you can take to protect yourself from identity theft. Below are just a few simple and easy steps that will make it difficult for perpetrators to steal your identity:

- Don't give out your social security number except for governmental purposes, and when absolutely necessary
- Check your credit report regularly to detect credit card that you did not apply for and other discrepancies
- Monitor your credit card bills for suspect charges
- Buy a shredder and shred all papers before tossing them into the trash
- Don't carry extra credit cards or checks on your person
- Don't print your social security number on your checks
- Don't give your credit card numbers to strangers
- Don't give personal information over the phone unless you initiated the call
- Don't place credit card payments in your mailbox for pickup, deposit them in a U.S. Mail Box or at the Post Office
- Use a name other than you mother's maiden name as security on your credit card accounts

Guard your identity as you would any other valuable asset.

Below are suggested steps to take if you suspect that you have been the victim of identity theft:

Contact the fraud departments of any one of the **three major credit bureaus** to place a fraud alert on your credit file. The fraud alert requests creditors to contact you before opening any new accounts or making any changes to your existing accounts. As soon as the credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, the other two credit bureaus will be automatically notified to place fraud alerts, and all three credit reports will be sent to you free of charge.

Close the accounts that you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. Use the **ID Theft Affidavit** (located at <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>) when disputing new unauthorized accounts.

File a police report. Get a copy of the report to submit to your creditors and others that may require proof of the crime. File your complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FTC maintains a database of identity theft cases used by law enforcement agencies for investigations. Filing a complaint also helps them learn more about identity theft and the problems victims are having so that they can better assist you.

FROM THE OFFICE OF CODE ENFORCEMENT F.Y.I.

The codes and ordinances that are enforced within the City of Seat Pleasant are designed to help the residents live in a safer and cleaner community.

Proper Lawn Maintenance:

As of June 3rd 2010 your grass is not to exceed 8 inches in height.

- All property owners with grass exceeding 8 inches will have 72 hours to cut the grass. If the grass has not been cut within that time frame, the city will cut the grass and the cost will be assessed against the property.
- Remember to cut the weeds and grass that may grow up on your fence line.
- Property owners with backyards or side yards abutting a street or alleys in the City, are responsible for cutting the grass between their property line and the adjacent street.



Vehicles:



All vehicles including motorcycles, trailers, boats, and family cars, etc. must be parked on hard or impenetrable surfaces. Those vehicles parked on yards, grass, or dirt are in violation. Newly constructed driveways must be constructed with asphalt or concrete. Existing gravel driveways must be maintained with no grass growing through.

Insert Screens:

During May 1st to September 30th every door, window and other outside opening required for ventilation of habitable rooms, food preparation areas, and food services are to be supplied with tightly fitting screens of not less 16 mesh per inch.

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

A complaint was brought to the attention of the Seat Pleasant Police Department in reference to vehicles being parked on the sidewalk. According to the State of Maryland Motor Vehicle Laws Section 21-1003 (b), Stopping, Standing, Parking vehicle(s) on the sidewalk is prohibited. Any person who violates this law is subject to a fine of \$50.00. The City of Seat Pleasant Ordinance states under Section 137-5.1 under Obstructions of public places that a person may not obstruct any public place so as to hinder or impede free and uninterrupted passage of vehicular or pedestrian traffic on, in, along or across the public place. In addition, the City of Seat Pleasant Vehicle and Traffic Regulations in Section 150-2.11: Stopping, standing or parking is prohibited in a specified place states that "no person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle in front of a public driveway nor on a sidewalk." Any person who violates this traffic regulation is subject to a \$50.00 fine. We ask for your cooperation in this matter. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact the Seat Pleasant Police Department at 301-499-8700.

WHAT IS THE CITIZEN'S FOR PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CPAC)?

For those of our readers who are unfamiliar with CPAC (a regular contributor to the City Newsletter), or are interested in joining, the following information will provide insight into the organization:

Seat Pleasant's Citizens for Public Safety Advisory Council (CPAC) was created to enhance the quality of life of our residents. They meet every month and have fostered a wonderful working relationship with the city's public safety partners - the Seat Pleasant Police Department and the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. The council consists of citizens along with representatives from the Police Department and the Citizens Association. CPAC receives comments and suggestions from residents and discusses strategies to help resolve public safety issues. They also provide the Mayor and City Council with regular input on issues surrounding crime and fear abatement. CPAC hosts Seat Pleasant's Annual National Night Out celebration and conducts safety forums for residents. CPAC's goal this year is to increase public awareness, start the Neighborhood Watch Program in all of the city's wards, and make Seat Pleasant a safer place. Feel free to email them at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com.



Members of CPAC at Seat Pleasant Day

EXERCISE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT!

We all know how important it is to be active and engage in regular physical activity to improve our health—exercise decreases stress and positively impacts high blood pressure, obesity, overweight, diabetes and depression, to name only a few. In fact, exercising is probably the best thing we can do for our health; if the same benefits were available in a pill we would all be begging our doctors for the prescription! Luckily the benefits of exercising are available to everyone, typically free of charge—walking together with your family, neighbors or friends, working in the garden or hip-hopping with your grandson. Other activities may have a cost associated with them (for example, joining the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex), but the cost is worth the expense because of the health benefits received, whether you are swimming laps in the pool or taking an African dance class.

What prevents most of us from exercising is that we either do not like it or we do not have the time. However we must make the time because our health, indeed our lives, depend on it—48% of African Americans suffer from chronic disease
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compared to 39% of the general population (Mead et al, 2008). Something we can do to prevent chronic disease is exercise. If you are one of those people who does not have the time, you can work exercise into your day—park the car further away from the entrance, take the stairs instead of the elevator, work out with friends (it is more fun and you are much less likely to cancel) and begin slowly so you do not get sore. It is also important to keep track of what you are doing so you can see your progress, set small, realistic goals and reward yourself.

If you are one of those people who simply does not like exercising, focus on enjoying your friends' company and the conversation rather than the exercise itself—it may be over before you know it! Also try new activities you have never done before as there may be some you actually like—try bowling, tennis, swimming, yoga, a rowing or elliptical machine or riding a stationary bike while listening to music. After a while, you may find you like exercising! As much as possible, keep moving! Do it for the health of it!

Sharon M. Desmond, Ph.D.

Co-Chair, Seat Pleasant University of Maryland Health Partnership
Associate Professor, School of Public Health

This article is the first in a series of articles to be printed to inform and encourage residents to be active participants in their health and well being. It is the result of planning that took place during the Prince George's County Mayors and the University of Maryland Prevention Research Center Health Summit.

SAFETY TIPS FOR PREVENTING HEAT RELATED ILLNESSES

With rising temperatures, it is important to be safe. The best defense is prevention. Here are some prevention tips:

- Drink more fluids (non-alcoholic), regardless of your activity level. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. If your doctor generally limits the amount of fluid you drink or has you on water pills, ask how much you should drink.
- Don't drink liquids that contain alcohol or large amounts of sugar—these actually cause you to lose more body fluid. Also avoid very cold drinks because they can cause stomach cramps.
- Stay indoors, and if , at all possible, stay in an air-conditioned place. If your home does not have air-conditioning, go to the shopping mall or public library—even a few hours spent in air-conditioning can help your body stay cooler when you go back into the heat. Call your local health department to see if there are any heat –relief shelters in your area.
- Electric fans may provide comfort, but when the temperature is in the high 90's, fans will not prevent heat –related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath, or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- NEVER leave any one in a closed, parked vehicle.
- Although any one at any time can suffer from heat related illness, some people are at greater risk than other. Check regularly on:
 - Infants and young children
 - People aged 65 or older
 - People who have a mental illness
 - Those who are physically ill, especially with heart disease or high blood pressure
- Visit adults at risk at least twice a day and closely watch them for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Infants and young children, of course, need much more frequent watching.

For more tips go to: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/heattips.asp>

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



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OTHER EVENTS



COOKOUT WITH THE COUNCIL

SUNDAY,
JULY 25, 2010
GOODWIN
PARK

3:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Entrance to the park is at Crown and 69th Streets
in Seat Pleasant, Maryland

3:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Come be a part of this meet and greet with your
City Council Members as well as Prospective
Candidates in Prince George's County

FOOD SERVED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS

WARD IV MEETING/ICE CREAM SOCIAL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2010

WITH COUNCIL MEMBER
GERALD RAYNOR

IN THE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6301 ADDISON ROAD



SEAT PLEASANT, MARYLAND
3:00 - 5:00 P.M.



COME TO HEAR AND
BE HEARD

